Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /100 W -------093626 140549Z /15

R 131430Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 750

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

CONFIDENTIAL DJIBOUTI 347

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PINS, PINT, DJ, ET SUBJ: WHEREABOUTS AHMED DINI

REF: DJIBOUTI 216 (NOTAL)

1. FORMER PRIME MINISTER AHMED DINI CONTINUES HIS FOREIGN TRAVELS EVIDENTLY IN SEARCH OF MORAL AND MONETARY SUPPORT. FOLLOWING HIS TROUBLING BROADCAST FROM PARIS ON BBC SOMALI SERVICE ON 17 FEBRUARY, HE REPORTEDLY WENT TO ABIDJAN TO SPEAK WITH OFFICIALS THERE. PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED NOTED TO THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY THAT DINI IS NOW IN ADDIS ABABA. THERE ARE MANY RUMORS IN DJIBOUTI THAT DINI MAY ALSO HAVE GONE TO MOSCOW.

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2. POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EASILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PURPORTED VISIT OF AHMED DINI TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH HE IS NO LONGER PRIME MINISTER, HE REMAINS A MEMBER OF THE DJIBOUTI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND MIGHT RATE SOME PRESS TREATMENT FOR THIS REASON.

3. PRESIDENT HASSAN GOULED LOOKS UPON AHMED DINI NOW AS HIS MOST DANGEROUS OPPONENT. BOTH CRITICIZE THE OTHER FOR "TRIBALISM", USUALLY IN THE MOST NARROW ETHNIC TERMS. UNFORTUNATELY, EACH HAS THE EFFECT OF PUSHING THE OTHER INTO MORE EXTREME, ETHNIC-ORIENTED POLICIES, WITH DECREASING LIKELIHOOD OF ANYONE BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP WHICH COULD CREATE NATIONAL UNITY. CLARKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DJIBOU00347
Document Source: COPE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780112-0728 Format: TEL

From: DJIBOUTI Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780377/aaaacmvp.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 705574c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 DJIBOUTI 216

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 02 may 2005 **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3355728 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: WHEREABOUTS AHMED DINI

TAGS: PDEV, PINS, PINT, DJ, ET, (AHMED DINI)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/705574c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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